

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6415
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5247

SY CHANNEL

DEPT FOR A/SY/CC/TAGS; A/SY/OPS/T

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: GRENADE ATTACKS IN BUENOS AIRES

1. RSO RECEIVED FROM ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES PICTURES OF GRENADE FRAGMENTS RECOVERED FROM A ROCKET ATTACK ON THE CASA ROSADA (GOVT HOUSE) ON JUNE 10, 1978. IN ADDITION TO THIS ATTACK, THERE WERE FOUR OTHER SIMILAR ROCKET ATTACKS DURING JUNE. ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES BELIEVE THAT THE ROCKETS ARE RUSSIAN PG7 FIRED FROM AN RPG-7 PORTABLE ROCKET LAUNCHER WHICH HAS AN ACCURATE RANGE OF APPROXIMATELY 500 METERS. THIS GRENADE HAS GOOD ACCURACY IN LOW WIND CONDITIONS. ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES THINK THE GRENADE AND LAUNCHER MAY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY FROM AFRICA OR FROM ARAB COUNTRIES SYMPATHETIC TO MONTONERO OBJECTIVES. THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THE GRENADE IS A PG-2 FIRED FROM THE RPG-2 PORTABLE ROCKET LAUNCHER. THIS WEAPON HAS AN EFFECTIVE RANGE OF APPROXIMATELY 150 METERS BUT IS CONSIDERED LESS EFFECTIVE THAN THE PG-7. ARGENTINE SECURITY SOURCES THINK THERE
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MAY BE AS MANY AS 15 MORE OF THESE GRENADES IN THE COUNTRY.

2. THEY ARE DESIROUS OF OBTAINING CONFIRMATION THAT THE RECOVERED GRENADE FRAGMENTS ARE IN FACT OF PG7 OR PG2 ORIGIN. RSO IS POUCHING (THURSDAY, 7/13/78) PICTURES AND RECONSTRUCTED DIAGRAM OF GRENADE FOR EXAMINATION BY DOD. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FORWARDING US

A DOD ANALYSIS OF THE PICTURES, POSITIVELY IDENTIFYING
THE TYPE OF ROCKET INVOLVED. PLEASE REPLY VIA
SY CHANNEL.
CASTRO

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NNN

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